A Perennial Problem

A perennial problem with our modern era, especially since the advent of the Internet, is that many individuals publicly blurt forth their opinions about a person or about some group on the basis of information they have read or been told or on the basis of a pre-existing prejudice, having not bothered to undertake the painstaking sometimes boring hours of research which can provide the necessary balanced perspective.

A recent example concerned a person about whom numerous allegations have been made with the majority of people reading or hearing about such allegations instantly believing them to be true often on the basis of those ubiquitous fallacies of reasoning known as the appeal to authority and ad populum. [1]

Our example concerns someone who, as a believer in a particular modern phantasy, seemed to want to publicly prove their belief was no phantasy but a reality and, as so often happens, anonymously and via the Internet, trumpeted their latest 'piece of evidence'.

For they, like thousands of others, believed that a certain Mr Myatt (DM) was the person behind the pseudonym 'Anton Long' (AL) and thus the founder of a modern Occult movement that over the decades had acquired an unsavoury reputation based on various allegations. [2]

Their 'evidence' was that DM was "stated to be" the author of an article in which he used the phrase *seven fold way* which 'proved' he was connected to that modern Occult movement since they also used that phrase.

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Allegationist:

> What is less immediately helpful to this narrative is that David Myatt, in earlier O9A manuscripts, is clearly the author and outlines the Sevenfold Way. There is also private emails from Chloe Ortega that explicitly name

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Protagonist:

> What manuscript? Do you have a copy? Has Myatt admitted writing it? If so where? I'm reminded of the claim by Goodrick-Clarke that David Myatt was the author of an MS called Diablerie for which he offered no proof. That this unproven claim has since been accepted by thousands of people says a lot.

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Protagonist:

> To refresh you memory since you did not reply: you wrote that the 'Physis' article was "stated to be by [David] Myatt". Stated by whom/who and where? What evidence was presented by the claimant for his/her/their claim that DM wrote it? Such unverified claims are an old propaganda trick...

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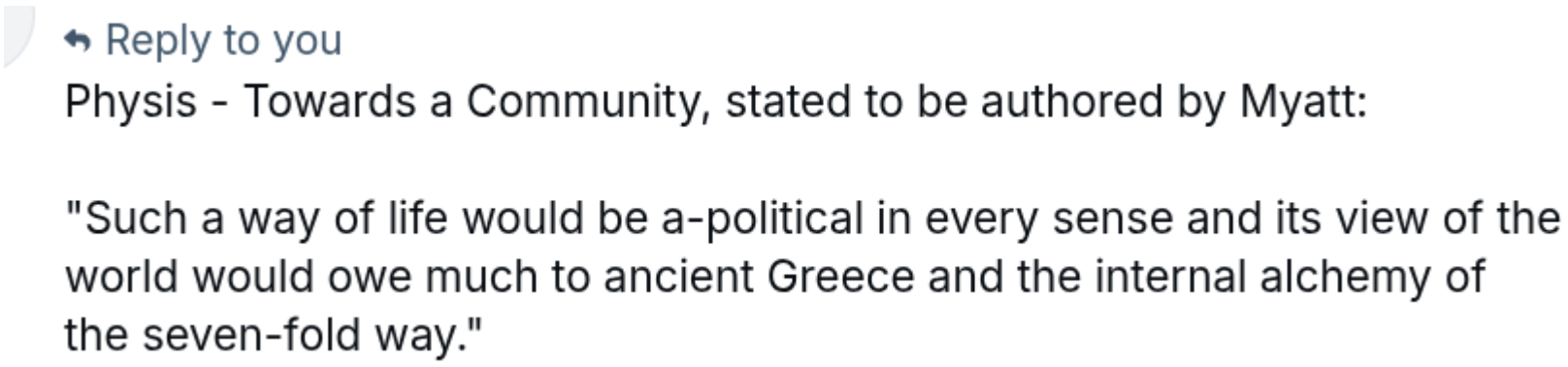
Allegationist:


Reply to you
Physis - Towards a Community, stated to be authored by Myatt:
"Such a way of life would be a-political in every sense and its view of the world would owe much to ancient Greece and the internal alchemy of the seven-fold way."

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While the allegationist gave the title of the offending article, *Physis - Towards A Community*, they provided no further details even when asked by their sole protagonist to provide such details.

However, research by the protagonist and what the allegationist called his/her cronies revealed the context: that the article was included in a pdf compilation titled *Physis* by a Godric Liddell and consisted of the following sections:

> I The New Magick
> II Strength and Wisdom Through Action
> III A Training Program
> IV The Third Way
> V Notes on Training: Practical
> VI Notes on Training: Theoretical
> VII Martial Art of the West
> VIII Martial Art of the Left Hand Path
> IX Further Training Notes
> X The Nine Movements
> XI The Meaning of Physis
> XII Towards A Community

The article "stated to be by Myatt" began with the boast,

> I have travelled in most of the countries of the world, lived for years in several of them and in the course of it all I believe I have learned a few things from my contacts with other peoples.

No date was given for the compilation but the properties of the pdf file show it was produced in November 2009.

In addition, our research uncovered a 2015 article, *Ontology, Satanism, And The Sinisterly-Numinous Occult Tradition*, which in an Appendix provided information about the Physis compilation and sundry related matters. We include here the complete text of the Appendix with footnotes and source.

Appendix

The Third Way of Magick

> Editorial Note:
>
> This particular, somewhat polemical, Order of Nine Angles (O9A/ONA) text - mentioned in one of the *Satanic Letters of Stephen Brown* [1] - has a rather unusual history. Written c. 1973, it is one of only a few old O9A texts that has not, until now, been republished in its entirety using an original copy, although extracts from it were used in the first edition of a 1980s compilation entitled *Physis - A Western Martial Art* circulated by a group, operating under the name The Physis Foundation, whose stated aim was to

establish a rural, agrarian, pagan and non-political community in England, and which group was rumoured to include a certain Mr Myatt.

Later editions of *Physis - A Western Martial Art*, which were issued c. 1990 by the similarly named The Physis Fraternity (rumoured to be organized by a certain Mr Moult in liaison with Stephen Cox's Order of the Jarls of Baelder) omitted the occult elements and in their place substituted overt National Socialism.

In addition, various plagiarized versions of parts of *Physis - The Third Way of Magick* were included in an early 1990s typewritten text simply entitled *Physis*, attributed to 'Godric Liddell' (probably a pseudonym used by Mr Moult) and first published in Stephen Cox's *Baelder* zine, and which text included, as an appendix, extracts from two (1980s vintage) articles by D. Myatt: *The Meaning of Physis* [2], and *Physis, Toward A Community*, the latter of which was also included in the aforementioned first (early 1980s) edition of Physis - A Western Martial Art.

The photocopy of the original 1970s typewritten text of *Physis - The Third Way of Magick* which survives contains copious handwritten corrections in an unknown hand but gives no author, and although it is tempting to attribute the original 1970s text to Anton Long my view is that both the style and the content militate against such an attribution. A slightly revised version of the original text - with three footnotes added, and (interestingly) with the word 'Man' replaced by the word 'mortal' - was circulated in the early 1980s, and it is that revised version (with footnotes) which is published here.

R. Parker
2015

{1} Letter to Lea, dated 23rd September 1990 ev (101yf). Thormynd Press, 1992.

{2} Myatt's 1980s article - republished in Kerry Bolton's *The Heretic* zine (issue #1, July 1992) - begins: "Physis is a Greek word which can be translated as 'Nature' - it also means the 'natural unfolding' or evolution which occurs in nature as well as the 'character' or 'nature' of a person. In many ways, it is that harmony or balance which 'holds the cosmos together' in a natural way. The ancient Greeks had a concept of living and an approach to the gods which was pagan - they believed that a proper life (I am writing about pre-Platonic views here) was a balanced one, that the relationship of the individual to the gods was important. This relationship was not based on concepts of sin nor on a morbid denial of life and its pleasures. Rather, it was based on respect - the individual respected the gods and believed the respect (and thus personal fortune) of the gods could be obtained or given if the individual strove to achieve excellence. It was considered unwise to be excessive - in anything."

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Source:
https://web.archive.org/web/20150925134344/https://omega9alpha.wordpress.com/ontology/

Plagiarism And Anonymity

The above extract from a 2015 article on a now defunct weblog is interesting for a variety of reasons, relevant to the perennial problem and the Internet accusation we have been discussing.

Firstly, the author of the 2015 article was anonymous and claimed a variety of things in the Appendix such as that certain articles in the *Baelder* were by D. Myatt, and secondly, that the author of the Physis compilation, Godric Liddell, was "probably a pseudonym used by Mr Moult" and that "plagiarized versions" of *Physis - The Third Way of Magick* were "included in an early 1990s typewritten text published as *Physis*, and attributed to Godric Liddell".

What is thus illustrated is that an attribution of authorship made by another author, and

especially by an anonymous author whose work is reproduced by means of the Internet, should not be cited as a reliable source with an inference based on such an attribution just another unproven allegation.

Hence, the inference by our allegationist that an article with the name 'David Myatt' attached to it reveals his connection to some modern Occult movement is simply one more unproven allegation about him.

A reliable, primary, source in this matter is what DM replied in answer to a question asked about the 'martial art' of Physis in a 2024 interview:

> Q: What is the ethos of the Martial Art of Physis, what was the idea behind it and do you still view it as an applicable practice?
>
> A: The ethos was implied in the term physis (φύσις) which I then understood not simply as the conventional English translations of 'Nature', or as the 'nature' or 'character' of a person, but rather in the Aristotelian sense of a 'meson' (μέσον) which is the balance, the median, existing between the being which-was and the being which-can-be, as in my later translation of his Metaphysics 9.1051a [...]
>
> That style of defence, for it was a style rather than an Art, was only demonstrated, rather than taught, to one person who went on to write about it and in the process somewhat divorced it from its source which was the Confucian Hsing." Some Questions for David Myatt July 2024, [3]

Thus we, taking a leaf out of the playbook by the allegationist, might speculate that the person who "went on to write about it" was the anonymous author 'Godric Liddell' who was rumoured to be a certain Mr Moult.

A Protagonist
July 2025

1.

(i) The fallacy of *appeal to authority*, also known as the fallacy of Argumentum ad Verecundiam, is somewhat misunderstood in this age of the Internet. It is not only citing or quoting a person or persons who is/are regarded, by the person citing or quoting or by others, as an authority or 'expert' on a subject but also citing or quoting the opinion given by some institution, or 'policy/advisory group' or similar, on a subject, regardless of whether or not the 'expert' or institution or whatever has their opinion published by some means or some medium regarded as 'mainstream', academic, or 'respectable' or authoritative.

The crux of the fallacy is a reliance by someone or by some others on who or what is regarded in a particular society as an authority on or as having a detailed or 'expert' knowledge of a subject or subjects.

Thus a statement such as the fallacy of appeal to authority "is when the opinion of a non-expert on a topic is used as "evidence" is itself fallacious because although it appears to be a decisive statement regarding 'authority' it is logically not so having not only restricted the fallacy to those are not 'experts' but does not define what an 'expert' or a 'false expert' is or are or who or what person or institution, or 'policy/advisory group' or similar has the 'authority' to declare someone an 'expert' or a 'false expert' in a certain subject or subjects, and from whence a person or an institution, or 'policy/advisory group' or similar derives their own authority to make such declarations.

The corollary of the appeal to authority is personal research by scholarly means of a subject using primary sources.

(ii) The fallacy of *ad populum* is when a person either 'follows the crowd' and believes or claims that because so many others have claimed or believe something it is probably true, or when they are convinced, usually emotively, by a propagandist or politician or by some populist

speaker that something is true or that someone or some many are guilty or culpable.

2. The allegations and the phantasy are described in:
(i) *The Trouble With Myatt And the ONA*, https://archive.org/download/trouble-dm-o9a/trouble-dm-o9a.pdf
(ii) https://egnatiusseverin.wordpress.com/2025/06/26/the-phantasy-about-a-myatt-explained/
(iii) *Unravelling The ONA*, https://www.scribd.com/document/836868004/Unravelling-The-ONA
(iv) *Primary Sources And An Esoteric Philosophy*, https://archive.org/download/primary-sources-esoteric-philosophy/primary-sources-esoteric-philosophy.pdf

3. https://davidmyatt.wordpress.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/dwm-seven-interviews-v1.pdf

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